

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-10 /093 W

-----090255Z 119881 /72

R 081929Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8921

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW, GE, UK, US, FR

SUBJECT: FRG ANNOUNCES THAT FRG/GDR "SOUNDINGS" TO
BEGIN SOON

REFS: (A) BERLIN 6179; (B) BONN 8762;
(C) BONN 7935

1. AT A JUNE 6 PRESS CONFERENCE, FRG GOVERNMENT
SPOKESMAN GRUENEWALD CONFIRMED THAT SOUNDINGS WITH THE
GDR WILL BEGIN SOON TO DETERMINE WHICH PROPOSALS IN
THE FRG PACKAGE HAVE A REASONABLE CHANCE OF
SUCCESS. THE FIRST ROUND WILL BE HELD IN BONN
BETWEEN FRG MINISTER OF STATE WISCHNEWSKI AND THE HEAD
OF THE GDR PERMANENT REPRESENTATION MICHAEL KOHL AS
SOON AS A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY DATE CAN BE ARRANGED;
THE SECOND ROUND WILL BE HELD IN EAST BERLIN.

2. GRUENEWALD NOTED THAT, BECAUSE SOME OF THE FRG
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INITIATIVES DEALT WITH WEST BERLIN, THE THREE ALLIED
AMBASSADORS HAD ALREADY BEEN "INFORMED" OF THE UPCOMING
TALKS AND WOULD BE "CONSULTED" IF NEGOTIATIONS ENSUED.
THE FRG HAD ALSO BRIEFED CDU CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL AND
CDU/CSU FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN MARX ON THE SOUNDINGS
LAST WEEK.

3. GRUENEWALD SAID THAT AFTER WISCHNEWSKI AND MICHAEL KOHL AGREE ON WHICH TOPICS ARE TO BE PURSUED, DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE RELEVANT MINISTRIES. HE SAID THAT GAUS, FRG PERMREP IN EAST BERLIN, WOULD COORDINATE THE NEGOTIATIONS THERE WHILE FRANKE, MINISTER FOR INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS, WOULD COORDINATE THE WORK WITHIN THE FRG. GRUENEWALD SAID HE COULD NOT EXCLUDE THAT SOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE ON THE WISCHNEWSKI/KOHL LEVEL.

4. GRUENEWALD WAS ASKED WHY WISCHNEWSKI WAS UNDERTAKING SUCH "FUNDAMENTAL" SOUNDINGS, WHEN THESE WERE DONE IN THE PAST BY GAUS. GRUENEWALD REPLIED THAT WISCHNEWSKI WOULD NOW LIKE TO MAKE OPERATIVE THE RESPONSIBILITY WHICH PREVIOUSLY WAS THAT OF THE HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR, MANFRED SCHUELER. HE SAID THAT SCHUELER, BECAUSE OF HIS OTHER DUTIES, PREFERRED TO TURN OVER THAT RESPONSIBILITY TO GAUS BUT THAT WISCHNEWSKI IS NOW ENTRUSTED WITH THAT DUTY AND IT IS OBVIOUS FOR HIM TO CARRY OUT THE SOUNDINGS.

5. ALMOST ALL NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS (JUNE 7) LIST THE FRG'S MAJOR INTERESTS IN THE UPCOMING TALKS AS PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS (1) IN TRANSIT AND (2) ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES. THE GDR IS SAID TO BE CHIEFLY INTERESTED IN (1) INCREASED TRADE CREDITS WITH THE FRG AND (2) AN INCREASE IN PAYMENTS FOR THE POSTAL SERVICES IT RENDERS TO THE FRG.

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